



STATE OF WISCONSIN

Natural Areas Preservation Council

P.O. BOX 7921 · MADISON · WISCONSIN · 53707



Natural Areas Preservation Council Meeting
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Pyle Center – Room 226
702 Langdon Street
Madison, WI

5 April 2018
9:30 a.m.

MINUTES

Present: James Bennett (chair), Kevin Anderson, Eric Anderson, Kenneth Bradbury, Ellen Censky (via telephone), Craig Thompson, Marcia Bjornerud.
Absent: Sharon Dunwoody, Thomas Eddy, Drew Feldkirchner, David Mladenoff
Staff: Thomas Meyer, Dawn Hinebaugh, Joe Henry
Guest: Donald Waller

Bennett called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

1. Adoption of agenda.

Addition: Item 4.B. – Olson letter regarding dedication of Van Vliet Hemlocks SNA. Thompson moved (seconded by E. Anderson) for adoption of the agenda as amended. The motion carried.

2. Approval of previous meeting minutes.

Bradbury moved (seconded by E. Anderson) for approval of the minutes of the October 2017 NAPC meeting as drafted. The motion carried.

3. Announcements.

Bennett: Introduced guest Donald Waller as a potential University of Wisconsin System appointee to the council. Waller is a professor of botany and environmental studies in UW-Madison's Department of Botany. Bennett also circulated a copy of the book by former NAPC member Joy Zedler titled "*Waubesa Wetlands: New Look at and Old Gem*", which describes the significance and history of the State Natural Area and its proposed designation as a RAMSAR wetland of international significance. The document is available for free download as an ebook from the Town of Dunn's website:

<http://www.town.dunn.wi.us/land-use/historic-documents/>.

Meyer: Displayed a poster-sized version of the SNA map updated from 2005 and which depicts all 687 sites. The map will be the reverse side of the program's folded brochure.

Censky: The Milwaukee Public Museum is coordinating its fourth annual BioBlitz on June 22-23, 2018 at Lake Farm Park in Dane County, and invites NAPC members to participate. Information on the event is available at: <https://www.mpm.edu/bioblitz2018>.

4. Previous action items

A. Status of NAPC guideline development.

1. Guidelines for seed collecting on State Natural

Meyer circulated the final draft of the revised seed collecting guidelines that he and Eddy developed. Waller provided a minor amendment. E. Anderson moved (seconded by A. Anderson) for approval of the guidelines as amended. The motion carried.

2. Guidelines for sourcing plant propagules for SNA restoration

This item was tabled to a future meeting when Eddy could be present to lead the discussion.

3. Guidelines for use of biological controls on SNAs.

Former NAPC member Perry initiated review of this document, but a final draft was not presented to the council for review. It was suggested that Feldkirchner decide on whether or not revision of these guidelines, and input from DNR staff on them, is warranted. If so, E. Anderson and Dunwoody were charged with facilitating their redrafting.

4. Policy on removing debris from SNA streams

Bradbury asked for a contact in the WDNR's water regulation and zoning and/or fisheries management programs before moving forward with development of this guidance. Thompson agreed to provide this, and suggested that the guidance be expanded to include not only the stream bottom, but the entire riparian zone. Meyer will work with Bradbury on this policy.

B. Van Vliet Hemlocks dedication.

The Friends of Van Vliet Hemlocks contacted the council with a request to legally dedicate the SNA. The council addressed this item at its October 2017 meeting. Bennett sought to confirm the actions of the council and commitment of the program to dedicate the site. Meyer confirmed that Van Vliet is on the program's list of sites to be eventually dedicated, assuming it meets all eligibility requirements. However, Thompson stated that the department is not processing dedications at this time.

5. New action items

A. Council appointments.

Bennett stated that the terms for himself, Mladenoff and Censky end on June 30, 2018. Mladenoff and Censky have agreed to seek reappointment for new 3-year terms. Bennett, being term-limited, will rotate off the council. Bennett will forward the names of Donald Waller (as his replacement) and Mladenoff to the UW Board of Regents Education Committee for their review at its June meeting. If approved by the Committee, the proposal will be forwarded to the full Board for its consideration at its quarterly meeting. Censky agreed to have a Milwaukee Public Museum official send a letter to Bennett formally reappointing her to a new council term.

B. Election of officers.

Election of council offices for chair (currently held by Bennett) and vice chair (held by Dunwoody) will be held at the council's first meeting after July 1, 2018. Dunwoody and E. Anderson agreed to form a nominating committee to prepare a slate of candidates for the council's consideration at that meeting.

C. Future council meetings.

Meyer will poll council members for their availability during the last two weeks of July and the first two weeks of August 2018 to schedule a summer NAPC meeting. The meeting location may be at Waubesa Wetlands SNA.

6. Information items

A. SNA Program strategic direction.

Henry gave a presentation on the SNA Program's initiation of an revision to its long-range plan, last revisited in the mid-1980s. Questions about the program's direction, especially with respect to its protection and land management priorities in light of climate change, declines in acquisition funding, and increases in management challenges (such as invasive species), prompted the review. Henry is leading an NHC team in the effort, with a completion target date of Spring 2019. Thompson stated

that the team has yet to determine appropriate avenues for council engagement, but avowed to keep the council abreast of the plan's progress and engage it when necessary. Waller noted the importance of addressing and considering landscape context in the plan. E. Anderson welcomed the effort to have NAPC and the SNA Program refocus its core mission. In response to Bennett's question about if the existing gap analysis is meeting the program's needs, Sample was charged with providing an overview of the gap analysis at the next council meeting.

B. Recreational rock climbing in SNAs.

This item was tabled for discussion at a future meeting.

C. New SNA designations and acquisitions.

Acquisition of SNA lands since the last NAPC meeting was limited to two small lots at Chiwaukee Prairie SNA in Kenosha County. No new SNA designations were made in the period.

D. Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation report

Thompson welcomed Bjornerud and Waller (if confirmed) to the council on behalf of the Department.

Other items:

- Secretary Stepp and Deputy Secretary Thiede left the Department for positions in the EPA's Region 5 office in Chicago. Dan Meyer was appointed by Governor Walker to fill the Secretary position.
- NHC recently added capacity to SNA land management by hiring several LTE natural area crew members.
- Under the Department's new alignment, prescribed fire on all state lands, including SNAs, is now coordinated by the Division of Forestry. This has presented some challenges as the new structure has been implemented.
- NHC will be meeting with the Natural Resources Foundation to discuss funding amounts and priorities for SNAs.

Thompson thanked Bennett for his service to the council since 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30. Following lunch, the council toured the UW-Madison Herbarium on campus. Herbarium Director Ken Cameron led the tour.